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Implementation of Nauru Ocean Resources Incorporated training programme, December 2015

Note by the secretariat

1. On 5 November 2015, the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority received a training proposal from Nauru Ocean Resources Incorporated (NORI), in accordance with its exploration contract for polymetallic nodules signed with the Authority on 22 July 2011.

2. According to the training proposal, NORI would offer two candidates from developing States the opportunity to attend as trainees an environmental planning workshop, to be held by NORI in Ghent, Belgium, on 11 and 12 December 2015.

3. At the workshop, NORI would review its plans for conducting environmental baseline studies within its nodule exploration licence area, located at water depths of 4,500 m in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. Environmental monitoring plans for mining tests would also be reviewed, and potential partnerships and collaborations for conducting the studies explored.

4. According to the training proposal, the candidates must be undergraduate students or young scientists studying marine science or environmental science. NORI would cover the costs of economy class air travel, local transportation, if needed, and accommodation for the trainees.

5. On 26 November 2015, NORI announced that the location of the workshop had been moved to London.

6. On receipt of the training proposal, the secretariat advertised it online and contacted the candidates who had been selected by the Legal and Technical Commission as alternates for previous training programmes to enquire about their interest in and availability for the NORI training opportunity. The deadline for the submission of applications was set for 20 November 2015.

7. By the deadline, a total of five applications had been received. After consultation with NORI, Renée McDonald (Jamaica) and Oresajo Bamidele (Nigeria) were selected as the candidates for the training and Ahmed Sabry (Egypt) was

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selected as an alternate. While Ms. McDonald participated successfully in the workshop, Mr. Bamidele, unfortunately, did not succeed in obtaining a visa to travel to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the workshop. It was not possible for Mr. Sabry to obtain a visa either.

8. Ms. McDonald submitted her training report on 24 December 2015, which was posted on the Commission's secure website.